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INSTRUCTIONS

AND

DEVOTIONS

FOR PERFORMING THE

NOVENA

OF

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER.

MONTREAL,

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE VINDICATOR,

Place d'Armes.

1829.

THE MANNER OF PERFORMING

The Novena,

OR THE

NINE DAYS DEVOTION TO ST. FRANCIS XAVIER.

THIS Novena commences on the fourth of March, and continues nine days, that is, till the twelfth of March, upon which day in the year 1622, Pope Gregory the XVth canonized St. Francis Xaverius. The persons who perform this Novena are to be employed upon each of the days, in prayer and good works, to the glory of Almighty God, and in honour of his servant St. Francis Xaverius, always endeavouring to repose entire confidence in the merits of this apostle, and hoping through his means to obtain from God whatsoever they shall ask, provided it be conducive to their salvation and the good of their souls; or that otherwise, instead of that blessing, which they beg, and which is not for their benefit, this saint will obtain for them of God some other grace they do not ask, and which tends more to their eternal felicity.

For the exact performance of this Novena, they are to take for their advocates the nine choirs of heavenly spirits, making particular mention of the principle virtues of St. Francis Xaverius, and they are to observe other directions which shall be given hereafter. It will be con-

venient to confess and communicate the first day, that so the soul being cleansed from sin, and honoured with the sacred eucharist, all the works we perform in the state of grace may be meritorious of eternal life, and the more efficacious towards obtaining the benefit we ask. Those who do not confess, must at least begin every day with an act of contrition, to cleanse their souls from sin, and to secure themselves of obtaining their petition.

When this Novena is not performed in the church with the general concourse of the people, it were convenient, that if it be done in a private house, all the family should join in performing it altogether, begging that of God for every one, which each apart begs for himself.

For the conveniency of such as stand in need of farther direction, we will here set down those prayers that are proper to be said every day; nevertheless, such as are more devout may beg the same thing of the saint, in such terms and language as their devotion shall dictate, and may direct their prayer as they think fit: when many together perform the Novena, one of them may read the prayers, changing the singular number into the plural, and saying *we desire*, *we beg*, &c. The others may repeat the prayer after him, or else only hear it, with attention, inwardly desiring and begging that which is asked in it.

Instructions for the exact performing of the Novena.

Those who perform the Novena are to observe these instructions upon all and each of the nine days. *First*, They are to endeavour to imitate some one of this Saint's virtues, by practising some exterior act or acts

thereof: as for instance, his zeal, humility, patience, &c. *Secondly*, They are to do some work of mercy, either spiritual or corporal, for the benefit of their neighbours; as giving alms, visiting the sick, or those who are in prison, comforting the afflicted, praying for the souls in purgatory, or for those that are in the state of mortal sin, &c. *Thirdly*, They are to offer up to this Saint some particular mortification, as fasting, wearing of haircloth, disciplining, using themselves with less tenderness, &c. *Fourthly*, They are to curb their senses, their eyes and ears, and their tongues, endeavouring to avoid even the least of sins. *Fifthly*, They are to read some chapter or passage of the life of this Saint, or meditate awhile upon some one of his virtues, with an earnest desire to imitate them. *Sixthly*, They are to endeavour, for the glory of God, to excite some person to bear devotion to this saint. *Seventhly*, It will be convenient they every day invoke the intercession of some one rank of the saints, as they do of the choir of angels, to the end that their advocates and intercessors being multiplied, as the church expresses it, they may the more readily obtain what they ask. The classes of saints may be divided into patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, bishops, doctors, priests, religious, confessors, virgins and other saints in heaven. For the more effectual prevailing with St. Francis Xaverius, it will be convenient every day to make a special commemoration of St. Ignatius of Loyola, whom St. Francis Xaverius honoured, respected and loved, as his father, master, and superior.

Upon one of the nine days, the person performing this devotion must confess and communicate, making a most diligent preparation to please God and Saint Francis Xaverius for the more ready obtaining of the thing desired.

Such as cannot read, may cause another to read these prayers, they giving great attention to them, and offering them up to St. Francis; or instead thereof they may say ten times the *Lord's Prayer*, ten *Hail Mary's*,

and ten times *Glory be to the Father*, &c. in memory of the ten years that Saint Francis Xaverius spent in the Indies; begging of the Saint whatsoever they desire, and praying as he did for the conversion of infidels.

Though the most proper time for performing this Novena be from the fourth of March to the twelfth, which is the day of the canonization of Saint Francis Xaverius, yet it may be performed at any other time of the year.

How much the devotion of this Novena daily spreads, is well known; on this account St. Francis had obtained favours for several persons, as they themselves testify. In the year 1688 it was performed at Madrid, with extraordinary solemnity in the royal chapel of the palace, their catholic Majesties being every day there present.

THE FIRST DAY OF THE NOVENA.

The person performing this devotion kneeling before the altar or the image of St. Francis Xaverius, shall lift up his heart to God, and profoundly humbling himself in spirit, and offering up all his prayers, thoughts, and words to his glory, in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis Xaverius and all the angels and saints in heaven, he shall make the sign of the cross, and say the following prayer.

O Lord Jesus Christ! true God and Man, my Creator and Redeemer, for thy sake alone, and because I love thee above all things, I am sorry from the bottom of my heart for having offended thee; and I do firmly propose never to fall into sin again, to shun all occasions of offending thee, to confess my sins, and perform the penance that

shall be enjoined me, and to make restitution and satisfaction wherever it shall be due from me. For the love of thee I forgive all my enemies; to thee I offer up my life, actions, and sufferings, in satisfaction for my sins; and since I humbly beg it of thee, I trust in thy goodness and infinite mercy, that thou wilt forgive me them, through the merits of thy precious blood and passion, and wilt give me grace to amend my life and to persevere in thy service unto my death. Amen.

Most glorious St. Francis Xaverius! apostle of the Indies, if it be for the glory of God and to thy honour, that I obtain what I desire and beg, by performing this Novena; obtain for me this grace of our Lord, if not, guide my petition, and beg of our Lord for me, that which is most proper for his glory and the benefit of my soul.

O God, and Lord of the angels, whom thou dost entrust with the guardianship of men, I make thee an offering of all the merits of these heavenly spirits, and of those of thy servant Saint Francis Xaverius, who was called an angel for his purity, and because he preserved men from many spiritual and corporal dangers. I beseech thee, grant me that purity of soul and body, which thou didst confer on this thy holy apostle, and that particular grace which I beg in this Novena, to thy greater honour and glory. Amen.

[*Here say thrice the Lord's Prayer and three Hail Mary's, and then the following prayer to St. Francis Xaverius.*]

Most holy father, St. Francis Xaverius! who

receivest thy praises from the mouths of innocent children: I most humbly implore thy bountiful charity for the sake of the most precious blood of Jesus, and the immaculate conception of our blessed Lady Mother of God; to the end that thou mayest obtain of God's infinite goodness, that at the approach of my last hour, my heart may be seperated and withdrawn from all worldly thoughts and distractions, and be fixed in the most ardent love of him and a vehement desire of a happy eternity; so that laying aside the multiplicity of earthly things which hitherto have perplexed me, I may most diligently seek and perfectly find that one thing which is necessary, which is, to die and rest in peace under the protection of the most holy Virgin Mary, in the wounds of Jesus her most blessed son, in the sweet embraces of my God, and in thy presence, holy saint! through whose intercession I hope to obtain this mercy. But yet, whilst it shall please the divine Providence to preserve my life, I beseech thee my most loving protector and most affectionate father, to obtain for me of his divine majesty, that I may live as I would wish to have lived at the hour of my death, ever imitating thy virtues and fulfilling the most holy will of God; that so my temporal death may be to me a passage into life everlasting: I also beseech thee to obtain for me that which I ask in this Novena, if it be for the glory of God and the good of my soul. Amen.

[*In the next place, you are to ask of St. Francis Xaverius the particular favour you desire to obtain,*

heightening, as much as in you is, your confidence in him, with such words as your affectionate thoughts shall suggest, or with such aspirations as your devotion shall dictate.—Then the more to please this holy apostle, in imitation of him, say that prayer which he himself composed and used to say every day for the conversion of infidels, which is as follows:]

ETERNAL God! Creator of all things, remember that thou alone didst create the souls of infidels, framing them to thy own image and likeness: behold, O Lord, how to thy dishonour hell daily is replenished with them: remember, O Lord! thy only son Jesus Christ, who suffered for them, most bountifully shedding his precious blood: suffer not, O Lord! thy son and our Lord to be any longer despised by infidels; but rather, being appeased by the entreaties and prayers of thy elect, the saints, and of the church, the most blessed spouse of thy Son, vouchsafe to be mindful of thy mercy, and forgetting their idolatry and infidelity, cause them also to know him thou didst send, Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord, who is our health, life, and resurrection, through whom we are made free and saved, to whom be all glory for ever. Amen.

Then conclude with the prayer proper to this saint.

Antiph. Well fare thee, good and faithful servant; because thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will place thee over many things: enter into the joy of thy Lord.

V. Our Lord hath guided the just man by right ways.
R. And hath shewed him the kingdom of God.

THE PRAYER.

O God! who wert pleased to reduce to the bosom of thy church the nations of the Indies, through the preaching and miracles of Saint Francis Xaverius, mercifully grant us, that we may imitate his virtues, whose glorious merits we hold in veneration. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Litany of Saint Francis Xaverius.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God the Father of heaven, have mercy upon us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us.
God the Holy Ghost, have mercy upon us.
Holy Trinity one God, have mercy upou us.
Holy Mary, *Pray for us.*
Holy Father Ignatius, *Pray for us.*
St. Francis Xaverius, most worthy son of St. Ignatius,
St. Francis Xaverius, apostle of the Indies,
St. Francis Xaverius, evangilizing peace,
St. Francis Xaverius, evangilizing all good,
Vessel of election, carrying the name of Jesus before the Gentiles.
Vessel full of divine grace,
Firmament of the oriental church,
Defender of the faith,
Enemy of infidelity,
} *Pray for us.*

Preacher of evangelical truth,
Destroyer of idols,
Chosen instrument of the eternal Father, for the propagation of divine glory,
Faithful follower and companion of Jesus Christ,
Trumpet of the Holy Ghost,
Pillar of the church of God,
Light of Infidels,
Master of the Faithful,
Mirror of true piety,
Guide in the way of virtue and perfection,
Pattern of apostolical spirit and sanctity,
Light of the blind,
Curer of the lame,
Helper of those that suffer shipwreck,
Health of the sick,
Protector in time of plague, famine and war,
From whom the devils fly,
Life of the dead,
Whose power the sea and tempests obey,
Whose command the sea and all elements reverence,
Wonderful worker of miracles,
Refuge of the miserable,
Comforter of the afflicted,
Splendour of the east,
Tabernacle of incorruption,
Treasure of divine love,
Glory of the Society of Jesus,
Xaverius most poor,
Xaverius most chaste,
Xaverius most obedient,
Xaverius most humble,

Pray for us.

Xaverius most desirous of the cross and labours of Christ.
Xaverius most zealous of God's glory and the good of souls,
Angel in life and manners,
Patriarch in affection and care of God's people,
Prophet in gift and spirit,
Apostle in dignity and merit,
Doctor of Gentiles in all sorts of languages,
Martyr in desiring to die for Christ,
Confessor in virtue and profession of life,
Virgin in body and mind,
In whom we reverence through the divine goodness, the merits of all saints,
Pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, &c.

V. Pray for us, St. Francis Xaverius.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Lord God! who hast vouchsafed, by the preaching and miracles of St. Francis Xaverius, to join

unto thy church the countries of the Indies, grant propitiously, we beseech thee, that reverencing his glorious merits, we may also imitate his example. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The second Day.

Lord Jesus Christ, true God and man, &c. *as before on the first day.*

Most glorious St. Francis Xaverius, &c. *as the first day, and so on all the following days.*

A Prayer for this day.

Lord God of the Archangels! whom thou dost intrust with the most weighty concerns of thy glory, and the benefit of men, I offer up to thee the merits of these most diligent spirits and those of thy great servant St. Francis Xaverius, whom thou madest the minister of thy glory, and to whom thou recommendest the spiritual welfare of innumerable souls. I beseech thee, grant that I may perform those duties which thy most holy and divine will hath imposed upon me, and also that I may obtain that particular grace which I beg of thee in this Novena, to thy greater honour and glory. Amen.

The Third Day.

Lord God of the Principalities! who according to the disposition of thy divine will, by means of angels and archangels, take care of the

welfare of mankind, enlightening, instructing and governing them: I offer up to thee the merits of those most zealous spirits, and those of thy servant St. Francis Xaverius, who enlightened and converted many kingdoms and provinces, and in them, innumerable souls, not only by himself, but by his disciples and followers, instructing, teaching, and commanding. I beseech thee grant me the zeal of this holy apostle, and the particular petition I tender in this Novena to thy honour and glory. Amen.

The Fourth Day.

Lord God of the Powers! who have a special prerogative to curb the infernal spirits: I offer up to thee the merits of these most potent spirits, and those of thy servant St. Francis Xaverius, to whom thou gavest singular power of expelling devils from bodies and souls. I beseech thee, grant me the grace to overcome all the temptations of the devil, and that which I beg of thee in this Novena, to thy greater honour and glory. Amen.

The Fifth Day.

Lord God of the Virtues! by whose means thou workest miracles and prodigies peculiar to thy sovereign power: I offer up to thee the merits of those most stupendous spirits, and those of thy servant St. Francis Xaverius, whom thou madest a new Thaumaturgus, or worker of new and prodigious miracles, renewing in him the

signs and wonders of the blessed apostles, that he might discover the gospel to new nations. I beseech thee grant me that profound humility, wherewith St. Francis Xaverius amidst so many miracles sought thy glory, and not his own honour, as also that which I beg in this Novena, to thy greater honour and glory. Amen.

The Sixth Day.

Lord God of the Dominations! which preside over all inferior spirits as ministers of thy providence, and submit themselves to thy will, being ever ready to fulfil it: I offer up to thee the merits of these excellent spirits and those of St. Francis Xaverius, who, though superior to many, yet humbly submitted himself to all superiors, in them acknowledging thy Majesty, and readily fulfilling their commands. I beseech thee grant me a ready and perfect obedience to all my superiors, and that special petition which I make in this Novena, to thy greater honour and glory. Amen.

The Seventh Day.

Lord God of the Thrones! on whom thou reposest as on the seat of thy glory and throne of thy Majesty: I offer up to thee the merits of these supreme spirits and those of St. Francis Xaverius, that throne of thy glory, that vessel of election, to convey thy name to new nations, who denied himself to himself, and all worldly things, casting them out of his heart, that those alone might

possess it. I beseech thee, grant that I may despise all worldly things, and rest in thee alone; grant me also the petition I make in this Novena, to thy greater honour and glory. Amen.

The Eighth Day.

Lord God of the Cherubims! who are adorned with most perfect wisdom: I offer up to thee the merits of these most intelligent spirits, and those of thy servant St. Francis Xaverius, whom thou didst grace with supereminent wisdom, and to whom thou didst reveal most profound secrets, that he might teach thy law to many people and nations. I beseech thee, grant that I may learn to fear and please thee, which is true wisdom; and that by word and example I may teach others to keep thy commandments, and that thou wilt also grant me the favour I beg in this Novena, to thy greater honour and glory. Amen.

The Ninth Day.

Lord God of the Seraphims! who are inflamed with the most ardent love of thee: I offer up to thee the merits of these most fervent spirits, and those of thy servant St. Francis Xaverius, who like a Seraphim, was inflamed with thy love, conquering innumerable hardships and dangers of his life, to please thee and to make those know and love thee, who before offended thee, and knew thee not. I beseech thee, grant that I may love thee, my only God and Lord, and endeavour to bring all men to the knowledge and love of thee, and also that thou wilt grant me that which I ask in this Novena, to thy greater honour and glory. Amen.

FINIS.